## **NEWS RELEASE**

Superior Court in Yavapai County

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## HOUSING STABILITY COURT NAVIGATOR

YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA – A new local court program has been developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in collaboration with the Department of Economic Security (DES) to identify eviction action cases and provide assistance and information to those involved through a Housing Stability Court Navigator. The Superior Court in Yavapai County recently hired a Housing Stability Court Navigator to help landlords, tenants and other vulnerable populations address housing concerns. The Navigator may provide warm hand-off referrals to housing assistance entities and assist with obtaining federal and local resources, including funding.

The Navigator interacts with landlords and tenants to help obtain federal and local resources, including funding, to prevent evictions due to non-payment of rent while still safeguarding landlord rights. Community members facing housing stability issues can contact the Navigator and receive help with determining eligibility for emergency rental assistance, applying for emergency rental assistance, answering general questions about the eviction process, finding low cost or free legal aid, potential out-of-court settlement options, finding housing or emergency shelter resources, and finding other social service resources including those for mental health and substance abuse.

The successful use of a Navigator can be seen in Pima County, which is one of the leaders in getting federal assistance funds to renters in need. In a September Arizona Public Media article, it was reported that while the state of Arizona had distributed less than 10% of its federal funds, Pima County had approved or paid nearly 80% of its share and had plans to apply for additional

funding to keep the program going. Much of this success is attributed to strong outreach efforts and the use of a court navigator to help people through the process.

For more information about the Housing Stability Court Navigator, please contact Brandi Corley at 928-554-8568 or <a href="mailto:bcorley@courts.az.gov">bcorley@courts.az.gov</a>.

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